MR HAROLD WEISBERG
7627 OLD RECEIVER RD
FREDERICK MD
21702

7/7/91

Ms. Gloria Cooper, Managing Editor
Columbia Journalism Review
700 Journalism Building
Columbia University
New York, N.Y. 10027

DDear Ms. Cooper,

Will you please be kind enough to forward the enclosed letter to Steve Weinberg? Thank you.

I ask another favor, if it is not too much trouble. I seek a record I hope is in your building.

In about 1929 or 1930, when I was a student in the Wilmington, Delaware, High School, I was thhe managing editor of the school paper, The News, and de facto editor because the student who was the editor, James Borup, was in scholastic difficulties.

In those years if not since your School of Journalism held an annual contest for high-school papers. We won what I believe was one of the high honors, perhaps the highest. After all these years, recollection cannot be dependable.

I think it was known as "The All-America Honor Rating."

If there is an available record, I'd appreciate a copy of a citation of it.

I'm 78 now, in seriously impaired health, I leave a large archive and work-product that will be a permanent public archive on the JFK and King assassination,* including about a third of a million pages of once-withheld government records obtained by a series of difficult FOIA lawsuits, there will later be some interest in me and I have no record at all of my youth and my first writing.

That high school, then the only one in the city, was demolished decades ago so I cannot get any records from it.

It may interest you to know that the investigatory-files exemption of the FOIA was amended with the result that the FBI, CIA and other such agencies could no longer withhold records under FOIA, over one of my earliest FOIA suits. It was for JFK assassination records. The Senator who saw to it that the legislative record would be clear on this was his brother Edward.

I would appreciate it if you will be kind enough to forward this request to the proper office.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg

*At local Hood College, if in the future you know of any who may want access. I give all writers access now.

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Dear Steve Weinberg, 7/7/91

For publisher, editor, reviewer and reader alike with books other than biographies the situation can be much worse than what you say in the current CJR.

Even with experts reading the ms. an author can get away with incredible dishonesty, shaft the victim he intends to shaft, and not get corrected.

Take the current "The Crisis Years" by Michael R. Beschloss, who has scholarly credentials and clearly hates JFK. And these consecutive sentences:

"By the time Dulless and Bissell [of the CIA] briefed the President-elect, they had done much to tie his hands. As Dulles kept reminding him, they had a "disposal problem'."

Reference is to the Bay of Pigs, conceived and prepared for by the Eisnehower administration. The "disposal problem" refers to what the U.S. would do with all those armed and trained Castro-hating Cubans in Guatemala, if they did not invade Cuba.

Beschloss clearly tells the reader (page 132, by the way) that before he was President, during the interregnum, the CIA warned JFK about that problem.

This is a lie and Bschloss knew it when he wrote it.

It is one of innumerable similar examples of how the skilled writer can contort and have dozens of pages of detailed notes and seem authentic.

The truth is thet JFK was brief once on that project, incompletely, when he was at his father's home in Palm Beach. The "disposal problem" did not come up until just before the invasion was scheduled JFK had misgivings about it.

But the reader is told this lie, that JFK knew before he became President, therefore the responsibility is his.

You refer to books on the JFK assassination, I assume more recent books. If you have anything relating to them that you can let me have for archival purposes I'd welcome it. The judgement of one not a subject expert, which I am, could be valuable. Few people are in a position to evaluate these books, almost all of which advance theories as though they were fact. I've published six books on the JFK assassination without advancing a single theory and one of the same nature on the King assassination. I'm not aware of a book in two decades that does not give a theory on the assassination as fact.

Greenwood Press asked me to read a JFK assassination manuscript. The author is a PhD in political science. His "Spy Sage" is so bad I can't begin to describe it adequately. To serve history I provided about 20,000 words of almost sentence by sentence criticism and a few pages of the 250,000 I got under FOIA. The other expert, a history professor, also told Greenowod how terrible that manuscript was.

Greenwood didn't publish it. But Praeger, which owns Greenwood, did!

The average reviewer is not in a position to judge how atrocious that book is. Or the reader. Now you state a real problem. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg